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Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 DEC 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tetsuya SAKATA

Filed: December 29, 2004

Docket No.: 10921.267USWO

Title: LANCING UNIT AND LANCING APPARATUS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 495868673 US

Date of Deposit: December 29, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop PCT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: 

Name: John J. Ortiz

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

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Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: December 29, 2004

By: _____

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/jh

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date Mailed: December 29, 2004

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FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10921.267USWO	Application Number: Unknown
	Applicant: Tetsuya SAKATA	
	Filing Date: December 29, 2004	Group Art Unit: Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2003/0109808	06.2003	Takinami et al.			
	5,554,166	09.1996	Lange et al.			
	6,315,738	11.2001	Nishikawa et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	2001-74731	03.2001	Japan				
	7-16218	01.1995	Japan				
	5-88503	12.1993	Japan				
	2002-34956	02.2002	Japan				
	01/41643	06.2001	Japan				
	1 238 632	09.2002	EP				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	